

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 13, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 8 and 10 to 13 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,903,760 (McFarland). Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over McFarland in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2001/0026531 (Onodera). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns an image processing apparatus that forms an image to be printed on a recording medium which is of a disk shape and set in a dedicated tray of a printer. The image processing apparatus displays the outer circumference (1301) of the first recording medium and the outer and inner boundaries (1302, 1303) defining a label area therebetween inside the outer circumference and displays the image so that a portion (1304) of the formed image corresponding to the label area and a portion (1305, 1306) of the image corresponding to an area which would overflow the label area can be discriminated. Since the label area, which is suitable for printing on the recording medium, is displayed with its outer and inner boundaries, the user is allowed to check in advance whether desired printing can be obtained.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 7 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes an image forming unit configured to form an image which is to be formed onto a first recording medium on the basis of an application, the first recording medium being of a disk shape and set in a dedicated tray of a printer; and a display

control unit configured to control a process for displaying an outer circumference of the first recording medium and outer and inner boundaries, defining a label area therebetween inside the outer circumference and displaying the image so that a portion of the image formed by the image forming unit corresponding to the label area and a portion of the image corresponding an area which would overflow the label area, wherein the label area is suitable for printing on the first recording medium.

Applicant submits McFarland fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 7. Specifically, McFarland fails to disclose or suggest a display control unit that displays an outer circumference (1301) of the first recording medium and outer and inner boundaries (1302, 1303) defining a label area therebetween inside the outer circumference and displays the image so that a portion (1304) of the image formed by the image forming unit corresponding to the label area and a portion (1305, 1306) of the image corresponding to an area which would overflow the label area can be discriminated, as featured in Claim 7.

In contrast, McFarland discloses executing printing on a label to be affixed to an optical storage disc. Fig. 4 shows an example of a label page which has been printed. The label page is provided with grooves (320) for separating the label from the label page. On the other hand, the present invention is directed to the execution of printing directly on a recording medium.

Furthermore, McFarland recites that "images are desirably printed within an area that is substantially larger than the area required to cover at least one side of the storage media." (See McFarland, Paragraph [0022], lines 8 to 11). Therefore, according to McFarland, some portions of the images definitely would overflow the storage media upon printing. However this does not cause any difficulty, such as getting the dedicated tray dirty, because the images are not

printed directly on the storage media. Accordingly, McFarland does not address the problem caused by printing on the storage medium as does the present invention..

In light of these deficiencies of McFarland, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 13 is directed to a computer-readable medium substantially in accordance with Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 13 is also in condition for allowance.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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